
From: Seneca, Roy
To: Garvin, Shawn; Ryan, Daniel; Early, William; White, Terri-A; schaffer, joan; Grundahl, Nancy; Smith, Bonnie; Seneca, Roy; D'Andrea, Michael; Mosby, Angela
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Philadelphia Inquirer

Delaware River dredging about 60 percent complete

By Linda Loyd, *Inquirer Staff Writer*

With the completion of dredging last month of a 14-mile stretch of the Delaware River, the deepening of the river's main navigation channel to attract bigger ships and commerce is now about 60 percent complete, Philadelphia port officials said Wednesday.

Since the project began in March 2010 between Camden and the Atlantic Ocean, 42 miles of the Delaware has been dredged to 45 feet, from 40 feet. Roughly 35 miles of channel is at, or below, 45 feet naturally, leaving about 25 miles of the 102-mile river channel to go, said Lisa Magee, engineer and director of special projects at Philadelphia Regional Port Authority (PRPA).

Pennsylvania and the PRPA, as local sponsor, have spent \$50.8 million toward the project, and the federal government and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers \$70.5 million.

The next stretch, starting in September, will be in the Delaware Bay. After that, contract bids will go out for dredging between the Walt Whitman Bridge and Beckett Street Terminal in Camden.

The entire \$300 million deepening, which has been debated since 1983 when Congress directed the Army Corp to investigate the feasibility of channel deepening, is expected to be completed by 2017.

"Some of the toughest parts still remain to be done," said Army Corps spokesman Richard Pearsall. "The area around Marcus Hook, which is rock, while that might be a small area in linear feet - mileage-wise - it's a big, costly and tough job.

"And the lower Delaware Bay is still to be done. That is also somewhat more problematic because it's open water, so there are more currents and more distances. It's not a big problem because it's a fairly sandy bottom."

"Then, after that, we have the area between the Walt Whitman and Ben Franklin Bridges," Pearsall said. "If you look at the map [you would] say, 'Wow, that's a lot of area covered.' And it is, but there are still some spots there that are going to take time and money."

President Obama proposed \$31 million in his 2013 fiscal budget for the Delaware River project. The government has appropriated \$20 million and the balance, \$11 million, is expected any day, Magee said.

The president's proposed 2014 federal budget includes an additional \$20 million for the work.

"After years of discussions and hurdles, it's wonderful to finally see steady progress on this critical project," said PRPA chairman Charles G. Kopp. "A deeper shipping channel will allow us to welcome a wider variety of cargo vessels. Other ports are also deepening their channels, and it is so important that we do so as well."

Going to 45 feet would put ports on the Delaware in line with other major East Coast ports. The Port of New York is being deepened to 50 feet.

The federal government is supposed to pay 65 percent, and Pennsylvania, as local sponsor, 35 percent of the total tab.

Studies have estimated that a deeper shipping channel will create 8,000 to 12,000 direct jobs and spin off as many as 38,000 more through the region, Gov. Corbett said last summer, echoing support for the project that began with former Gov. Ed Rendell.

Across the river, Gov. Christie has been staunchly opposed, citing economic and environmental reasons.

Delaware, which originally sued to stop the deepening, now publicly supports it to accommodate larger ships and trade that is expected to come to the East Coast from Asia after the Panama Canal is expanded in 2015.

Washington Post

James River lands on list of America's Most Endangered Historic Places

By J. Freedom du Lac, Published: June 19

The fight over America's founding waterway has a new combatant: the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which added the James River to its list of America's Most Endangered Historic Places on Wednesday, citing a transmission-line proposal that "would compromise the scenic integrity of this historic area."

Dominion Virginia Power wants to run a 500,000-volt power line across the same stretch of river that some of the first English settlers navigated in 1607 before landing at Jamestown. The utility's proposed project, which is under consideration by the commonwealth's State Corporation Commission, has been opposed by preservationists and heavy hitters such as the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and the College of William and Mary.

By designating the James as a threatened treasure, the National Trust for Historic Preservation hopes to amplify the controversy — and, ultimately, compel Dominion to come up with another proposal.

"This isn't purely a local issue; it has national implications because of the incredible importance of the site and the nature of the threat," said Tom Mayes, the nonprofit group's deputy general counsel. Dominion's plan, he said, "seems to me to be an entirely avoidable result. We hope we'll move them off that position."

The proposed line would cross the James on at least nine towers, four of them ranging in height from 275 to 295 feet,

or nearly as tall as the Statue of Liberty. Preservationists say they would be visible from the tip of Jamestown Island and along the historic Colonial Parkway.

Dominion has said it needs to expand grid capacity and improve reliability in the region; its planners determined that an overhead line crossing downriver from Jamestown is the most sensible option.

“Dominion is sensitive to historic and environmental concerns,” Scot Hathaway, the utility’s vice president of transmission, said in a written statement. “We have recommended a route that is the least impactful and the most economical. Our customers want a reliable, responsible and reasonable solution to meet their electricity needs.”

Hathaway added that the utility “thoroughly investigated all viable alternatives, and only our proposal solves all the problems in a timely manner associated with providing reliable power to the North Hampton Roads region.”

A hearing examiner is expected to deliver an official recommendation to the State Corporation Commission in the fall.

WFMZ-TV Lehigh Valley

DEP wants Allentown to think twice before voting on 'clean air ordinance'

By Jamie Peter

ALLENTOWN, Pa. - The Department of Environmental Protection is warning Allentown to slow down and think twice about the possibility of making the city's air quality standards stricter than the state's.

Council is expected to vote Wednesday night on an ordinance that would allow the city to set stricter air quality control than the state's own Air Pollution Control Act. This all stems from the plan for Delta Thermo to build a waste-to-energy plant in the city.

If council votes it down, the issue will go to the voters as a referendum on the November ballot.

Council has yet to decide if it will strengthen the city's standards. Tuesday, David Raphael, Chief Counsel to the DEP, reminded Allentown's City Solicitor that city ordinances do not supersede state law.

For one, he pointed to the ordinance's requirement to set emissions limits, fees and penalties for the waste-to-energy plant as being in conflict with the fact that state lawmakers have given the DEP exclusive authority to regulate emissions.

A city spokesperson said it was unclear how the letter will influence council members' votes. Allentown City Council will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

You can read the letter from the DEP [here](#).

BNA Daily Environment Report

White House to Outline Climate Plans, as Obama Calls for 'Global Compact'

By [Avery Fellow](#)

The White House put climate change squarely on the policy agenda June 19, as President Obama called for a “global compact” on climate change, and his top climate adviser said the president and his

Cabinet members will discuss actions to address the issue in the coming weeks.

During a speech in Berlin, Obama said climate change is the “global threat of our time” and called for action on an international climate change agreement. Obama spoke at the Brandenburg Gate after meeting with German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

“The effort to slow climate change requires bold action,” Obama said, adding that Germany and Europe have led on climate change. “

For the sake of future generations, our generation must move toward a global compact to confront a changing climate before it is too late,” he said.

The United States has doubled its use of renewable energy, set fuel efficiency standards, and lowered greenhouse gas emissions, Obama said. “But we know we have to do more—and we will do more.”

Zichal Outlines Possible Actions

Meanwhile, Heather Zichal, deputy assistant to the president for energy and climate change, told a Washington, D.C., forum that actions could include regulations to curb greenhouse gas emissions for power plants, rules for increasing energy efficiency in buildings and appliances, and building renewable energy projects on federal land.

Zichal did not specify whether rules for power plants would apply to new or existing power plants or both. She spoke at a forum on the politics of climate change hosted by The New Republic.

Any proposal by the administration on climate change will rely on existing legislation and individual agency actions, Zichal said.

Obama “believes the overwhelming body of scientific evidence” on climate change and is “driven by a moral responsibility to act,” Zichal said. Obama and Cabinet members will have a “sustained focus on depoliticizing the climate on climate policy” in the coming weeks and months, she said.

Negotiations Falter in Bonn

International negotiations on climate change faltered June 3-14 in Bonn after one of three negotiating streams ended prematurely due to disagreement over whether future decisions should be approved by consensus or unanimous vote ([116 DEN A-1, 6/17/13](#)).

The situation raises the stakes for the next round of U.N. climate talks in Warsaw in November.

Countries have agreed to draft a global climate agreement by 2015 that would go into effect in 2020.

Climate change then took a backseat on the agenda at the Group of Eight summit in Northern Ireland June 17-18 ([see related story](#)).

Zichal said the administration will focus on efforts that do not require new funding or new legislation.

The Energy Department, for instance, will work on energy efficiency standards, she said.

The administration also will seek to further clean energy, such as streamlining the Interior Department process for approving installation of renewable energy projects on federal lands, she said. The administration also will use the Clean Air Act to address climate change, she added.

EPA Rules for Coal-Fired Power Plants

She pointed to the Environmental Protection Agency working on rules addressing greenhouse gas emissions from

coal-fired power plants. When asked whether the administration would issue rules on refineries before power plants, Zichal said, "In the near term we are very much focused on the power plants piece of the equation."

EPA rules addressing greenhouse gas emissions are critical to achieving the administration's goal of reducing U.S. emissions 17 percent by 2020 compared to 2005 levels, Zichal said. The administration is working to ensure that rules for power plants provide incentives and policies that will actually drive emissions reductions, she said.

EPA proposed a new source performance standard of 1,000 pounds of carbon dioxide per megawatt-hour for all new fossil fuel-fired power plants in April 2012, but it missed the one-year deadline to finalize the rule (77 Fed. Reg. 22,392). States, cities, and environmental groups have said they will not immediately sue EPA for failing to issue the final rule, due to potential administration action on reducing greenhouse gas emissions expected in July (118 DEN A-1, 6/19/13).

"We are well placed to take meaningful action for the second term," Zichal said. She said the administration will focus on measures that can get bipartisan support.

No Plan for Carbon Tax

Zichal said the administration has no plans to institute a carbon tax. "The president has not proposed and doesn't intend to propose a carbon tax," she said.

Instead, the administration plans to take a number of actions in different agencies, she said, referring to Interior's effort to promote renewable energy on public land and DOE's setting of energy efficiency standards as examples. "That is what we, as an administration, are focused on," she said.

The administration's recent action raising the social cost of carbon, which is used in the federal rulemaking process to assess the cost and benefits of regulations, relied on a "strong body of economic and educational literature," Zichal said. When the administration first set the cost in 2010, it left it open to revision, she said. "We feel very confident in where those numbers landed," she said (107 DEN A-2, 6/4/13).

Jennifer Morgan, director of the climate and energy program at the World Resources Institute, welcomed the remarks by Obama and Zichal June 19.

"There are clear indications that the Obama Administration is preparing to present a national strategy to respond to this crisis," Morgan said in a statement.

Aggressive Action Needed

The administration needs to take aggressive action to reduce U.S. emissions 17 percent by 2020, WRI found in a report issued in February. Curbing greenhouse gas emissions from new and existing power plants, taking steps to reduce hydrofluorocarbons, and setting methane emissions standards for natural gas wells could account for the vast majority of emissions reductions needed to meet the 2020 goal, according to WRI.

The administration also could eliminate fossil fuel subsidies and strengthen vehicle fuel economy standards to reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, according to WRI (26 DEN A-3, 2/7/13).

The president's speech in Berlin shows potential U.S. leadership on climate change, according to WRI.

"With bold action, the U.S. can slow the pace of climate change, demonstrate global leadership, and create a safer and more prosperous world," Morgan said.

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Judge to consider making public confidential document from 2011 Marcellus drilling settlement

A Washington County judge today agreed to consider a request to make public a confidential 2011 Marcellus Shale gas damage settlement document missing from court records she ordered unsealed in March.

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and the Washington Observer-Reporter asked President Judge Debbie O'Dell Seneca to rule on their motion to complete the court record in the Hallowich family damage case against Range Resources Inc., MarkWest Energy Partners and Williams Gas/Laurel Mountain Midstream.

MarkWest appealed Judge O'Dell Seneca's March order to unseal the Hallowich case records to the state Superior Court in April, and argued Tuesday that the action to complete the court record is precluded by that appeal.

The newspapers have sought access to court records in the Hallowich case since they were sealed in August 2011 by Washington County Judge Paul Pozonsky, who has since resigned for reasons unrelated to that case.

"In that original order to seal the case records it is clear that the agreement is part of the record," Frederick Frank, the attorney representing the Post-Gazette, said in court. "We're asking this court to enforce its prior (March) order and make it part of the judicial record. We should not be delayed further in having the record completed."

The Hallowich family claimed their property value and health were damaged when four Marcellus Shale gas wells, compressor stations and a 3-acre wastewater impoundment were drilled and installed adjacent to their 10-acre farm in Mt. Pleasant.

The Hallowichs received a \$600,000 settlement, plus \$150,000 for attorneys fees.

The settlement agreement, discussed during the August 2011 hearing in Judge Pozonsky's chambers which the Post-Gazette was barred from attending, contains a non-disclosure clause that prevents the family from speaking about the settlement or talking publicly about shale gas drilling or hydraulic fracturing.

Why the settlement agreement was not part of the 900-page court record unsealed in March is, Judge O'Dell Seneca said, "a puzzle that has not been resolved."

BNADaily Environment Report

EPA Said to Breach Chesapeake Bay Accord on Stormwater Rule (This article is from Wednesday)

By Amena H. Saiyid

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation said June 18 that the Environmental Protection Agency has been notified that it is in breach of its legal settlement for failing to propose national regulations for stormwater runoff at redeveloped and developed sites.

Under the dispute resolution provision of the 2010 agreement, EPA and the foundation have 30 days from the written notice's date of receipt, or more time if both sides agree, to meet and attempt to resolve the dispute.

If the parties are unable to resolve the dispute within 60 days of that meeting, which could be as late as mid-September, the foundation may then reinstitute the lawsuit, according to the agreement.

The foundation "will invoke the dispute resolution provision in our settlement agreement, which provides for 60 days to negotiate," CBF President Will Baker said in a June 18 statement. "We call on

EPA and the Obama administration to move quickly on a rule that increases protection for rivers and streams across the nation."

Baker said polluted stormwater runoff is damaging local waterways, reducing habitat for fish and crabs, and threatening human health across the nation.

“Here on the Chesapeake it is the only major source of pollution that continues to increase,” he said.

“EPA's failure to develop a new stormwater rule as required under our legally binding litigation settlement leaves us no choice but to find them in breach of our agreement.”

EPA Responds

EPA responded to the foundation's statement by reiterating its commitment to proposing revisions to stormwater regulations “as expeditiously as possible.”

“Consistent with the settlement agreement's dispute resolution process, EPA expects to meet with the foundation to discuss the rule's schedule within the next 30 days,” the agency said in a June 18 statement to BNA.

EPA and the foundation had agreed to a one-week extension following its final June 10 deadline under a May 2010 settlement to propose a rule (112 DEN A-3, 6/11/13).

The rule would address stormwater runoff at developed and redeveloped sites in communities with municipal separate storm sewer systems but not to cities with systems that combine both stormwater and wastewater.

EPA in April said that it is planning to propose more stringent standards for stormwater at newly developed sites than at redeveloped ones to create an incentive for businesses to invest in redevelopment projects in cities (84 DEN A-2, 5/1/13).

Deadline Extended Previously

Originally, EPA was required to propose the rule by September 2011, but the parties agreed to extend the deadline to April 27, 2012, and the foundation recently agreed to the June 2013 deadline upon E

EPA's request (Fowler v. EPA, D.D.C., No. 1:09-cv-5, 5/11/10;139 DEN A-1, 7/20/12).

Under the agreement, EPA and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation are allowed to negotiate extensions to rulemakings without the court's intervention. In the event of a disagreement concerning the “interpretation or performance of any aspect of this settlement agreement,” the parties can request negotiations to resolve the dispute within 30 days. Failing that, the aggrieved side can reinstitute the lawsuit.

Brian Glass, a partner with Warren Glass LLP, weighed in on the dispute between the foundation and EPA.

“The ‘alleged breach’ will certainly cause parties—not just environmentalists but also members of the regulated community—to think long and hard about resolving disputes with EPA through an out-of-court settlement agreement as opposed to a judicial consent decree, under which potential contempt of court sanctions are a significant deterrent to breaches,” Glass said. “At a minimum, it will encourage future parties to these settlement agreements to insist on terms that would make breaches as unappealing to the agency as such sanctions.”

Glass said he doubts whether the foundation would agree to a revised timetable.

Lancaster Newspapers

Pa. Senate bill would change approach to reducing Chesapeake Bay pollution (This article is from Wednesday)

By AD CRABLE
Staff Writer

A bold and controversial initiative, with a strong Lancaster County connection, has been launched in the Legislature that would dramatically shift how Pennsylvania strives to meet its deadline to reduce nutrients and sediment from agriculture that pollute the Chesapeake Bay.

Under the Major Watershed Improvement Act, the plan to stem nutrient runoff would move away from piecemeal financial aid going to farmers, new mandatory stormwater management regulations in all municipalities and sewage-plant upgrades.

Instead, the state would seek competitive bids from the public and private sectors for nutrient-reduction technologies, then agree to the long-term purchase of nutrient "credits" from the winners — likely large-scale manure-treatment facilities where farmers would have to transport their excess manure.

Senate Bill 994 is co-sponsored by state Sen. Lloyd Smucker of West Lampeter Township and Sen. Mike Folmer of Lebanon, who represents part of Lancaster County. Lancaster County's other state senator, Mike Brubaker of Warwick Township, helped vote the bill out of the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee on June 11 by an 8-3 vote.

The bill also is backed by the newly formed Coalition for an Affordable Bay Solution. Manheim-based Kreider Farms, a large dairy operation, is a founding member.

Backers say the current approach to meeting the state's commitment to a federally mandated "pollution diet" is not cost-effective and results in low-value solutions.

A competitive bidding process would result in funding of low-cost remedies that would have verified reductions in nutrients, they say.

"We have no choice but to reduce nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment," Brubaker said Monday, June 17. "How to do it at the least cost to the taxpayer — that's where innovation is very, very important."

Such innovative technologies exist now, bill proponents say, but they need financial support to ramp up to large-scale use.

The bill's prime sponsor, Elder Vogel, of Beaver County, said the legislation acts on recommendations made in two recent reports.

A Chesapeake Bay Commission study concludes that verified nutrient reductions from agriculture would significantly reduce costs for meeting Pennsylvania's commitment, Vogel said.

In addition, a Pennsylvania Legislative Budget & Finance Committee report released in January concludes that a competitive-bid process for funding proven technologies could reduce nutrient compliance costs by up to 80 percent, according to Vogel.

But the private Chesapeake Bay Foundation last week sent its members an urgent alert to defeat the bill and on June 17 urged all senators to do the same.

"This bill threatens to derail current clean water restoration efforts, and divert critical funding from proven, science-based clean water practices endorsed by CBF, in favor of proprietary, corporate-backed technologies that cost three times as much," the alert said.

"It's about siphoning millions of taxpayer dollars to a handful of corporate entities."

The bill was amended to protect funding already appropriated for traditional conservation programs, and other

changes were made.

But CBF says the bill is still "fundamentally flawed."

In an interview, Harry Campbell, executive director of the Pennsylvania office of CBF, said he is not rejecting the idea of investing in proven technologies that could help Pennsylvania meet its goal.

But, for starters, he said there was not enough public input from all affected parties about the bill.

"It just needs to have further contemplation and conversation. We have a lot more to talk about," he said.

Decades of investment in current proven efforts are beginning to pay off for a cleaner bay and local streams, and "maintaining the momentum is essential," he said.

One specific concern is that the manure-treatment technologies being contemplated would affect nitrogen but not phosphorus and sediment, which he called "the leading cause of impairment in our own backyard."

He suggested that such technologies should be supported by Pennsylvania's existing nutrient-trading program, in which nutrient reductions on farms or sewage plants or manure digesters earn trading credits that can then be sold to those required to reduce nutrients.

But he said he has concerns about the state requiring a new direction that might or might not be better for farmers in the long run.

"This is not a magic bullet," he said. "It's a tool to put in the tool box."

Washington Post

Rushern Baker proposes stormwater runoff fee to help pay Bay cleanup costs (This article is from Wednesday)

By Miranda S. Spivack, Published: June 18 E-mail the writer

Prince George's County homeowners could pay up to \$62 annually for a new fee to help fund a program to clean up the Chesapeake Bay.

The fee, subject to approval by the County Council, would appear along with other utility fees on residents' property tax bills. It was proposed Tuesday by County Executive Rushern L. Baker III (D) and would take effect later this year if approved by the council.

Businesses also are subject to a fee, which would be based on the amount of blacktop and other impervious surfaces on their properties. A nine-store strip shopping center would pay about \$12,000 annually under Baker's plan.

The county must enact some type of fee by July 1, to help pay for a program to minimize stormwater runoff, a major pollutant of the Bay. The program was mandated by the federal and state governments after a successful lawsuit by environmental groups. Several counties near the Bay, as well as Baltimore, are required to enact similar programs, and most already have.

Prince George's officials have estimated that they need about \$1.2 billion in revenue in the next decade to pay for their program, which would help finance stormwater management systems on county government and school system property.

Under the Prince George's proposal, homeowners and businesses could lower their stormwater fees by better managing runoff from their properties. They may install rain gardens, green roofs, rain barrels and other systems to help cleanse runoff before it flows into waterways that empty into the Bay.

Prince George's property taxes are capped by law. However, utility fees, such as the stormwater fee, are not subject to the cap.

USA Today

Record 'dead zone' foreseen for Gulf of Mexico (This article is from Wednesday)

By Dan Vergano, USA TODAY

Summer means sun, sand, and oxygen-deprived "dead zones" afflicting the Gulf of Mexico and the Chesapeake Bay.

Environmental biologists foresee a record-size "dead zone" for the Gulf of Mexico this summer, a New Jersey-sized patch of water deadly to marine life, federal officials announced on Tuesday.

Seen every year off the Texas and Louisiana coasts, the zone forms largely because of fertilizer runoff from the corn belt flowing down the Mississippi, where the nutrients spur the growth of algal blooms that remove oxygen from the water in the Gulf. The especially large size this year of the predicted zone, perhaps 8,500 square miles, appears to be tied to Midwestern floods that washed more nutrients into the river.

"The estimate is this will be the largest zone ever, unless there is a storm that stirs up the water," says researcher R. Eugene Turner of Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, who was one of the modelers on which the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other agencies based their prediction. "Even if there is a storm it is going to be a very large zone," Turner says.

Records have been kept on the summer dead zone in the Gulf since 1985. Last year's zone was one of the smallest on record, as a drought prevented runoff carrying as much fertilizer into the Mississippi River.

The prediction is better for the Chesapeake Bay, where estimates are for a smaller-than-average dead zone there, similar to last year. Improved conditions in the bay appear tied to improved water-treatment facilities in the region, suggests water-quality expert Michael Woodside of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), resulting in 30% fewer nutrients than average flowing into the estuary. That means more crabs, oysters and fish there.

Turner was critical of inaction on reducing the amount of fertilizer running into the Gulf, some 153,000 metric tons of nutrients in May, nearly three times as much as last year. He notes that a federal, state and tribal agreement aims to cut the average size of the dead zone in half by 2015, "and I don't see any sign of that happening," he says.

With corn prices high, it appears that farmers this year decided in favor of applying larger amounts of fertilizer, suggests Jerad Bales, USGS associate director for water. "A lot of the contribution to nutrient flow comes from groundwater, which can take years to reach the river," Bales says. "That means even if we take steps to cut nutrients, this could still be a growing problem for years."

The dead zones typically break apart in the fall, as waves and winds re-oxygenate the affected patches of water.

TV by the numbers

'Gasland Part II' Debuts July 8 on HBO

In the explosive follow-up to his Oscar[®]-nominated documentary “Gasland,” filmmaker Josh Fox uses his trademark dark humor to take a deeper, broader look at the dangers of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, the controversial method of extracting natural gas and oil, now occurring on a global level (in 32 countries worldwide).

Debuting MONDAY, JULY 8 (9:00-11:15 p.m. ET/PT), exclusively on HBO, GASLAND PART II shows how the stakes have been raised on all sides in one of the most important environmental issues facing the nation today. The film argues that the gas industry’s portrayal of natural gas as a clean and safe alternative to oil is a myth, and that fracked wells inevitably leak over time, contaminating water and air, hurting families, and endangering the earth’s climate with the potent greenhouse gas, methane. In addition, the film looks at how the powerful oil and gas industries are, in Fox’s words, “contaminating our democracy.” The timely documentary premiered at the 2013 Tribeca Film Festival.

Other HBO playdates: July 8 (4:55 a.m.), 11 (8:15 a.m., 4:15 p.m.), 14 (3:15 p.m.), 17 (1:45 p.m., midnight) and 20 (9:10 a.m.)

HBO2 playdates: July 10 (8:00 p.m.) and 25 (3:50 a.m.)

HBO Documentary Films presents another weekly series this summer, debuting provocative new specials every Monday through August 12. Other July films include: “Gideon’s Army” (July 1); “The Crash Reel” (July 15); “The Cheshire Murders” (July 22); and “First Comes Love” (July 29).

Ever since theater director-turned-filmmaker Josh Fox was approached five years ago with an unexpected offer of \$100,000 for the natural gas drilling rights to his property in the Delaware River Basin, on the border of New York and Pennsylvania, he has been on a mission to investigate and expose the environmental risks of hydraulic facturing. His first film, “Gasland,” debuted at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival, where it won the Special Jury Prize, and made its HBO debut later that year. The film was subsequently shown in more than 30 countries to an estimated 50 million viewers. In addition to an Oscar[®] nomination for Best Documentary Feature, “Gasland” won an Emmy[®] for Best Nonfiction Directing and was nominated for three other Emmys[®]. As a result of his activism, Fox was awarded the 2010 Lennon Ono Grant for Peace by Yoko Ono.

GASLAND PART II begins with the 2012 State of the Union Address, in which President Obama declares his support for the safe development of natural gas production, something Fox and the anti-fracking COMMUNITY believe is impossible. Beneath the continental U.S., some contend, lies a vast underground ocean of natural gas waiting to be harvested, with the potential to supply energy to millions of Americans.

However, as Fox explained in “Gasland,” the drilling process, called hydraulic fracturing or fracking, is exempted by the Bush-Cheney Energy Policy Act of 2005 from the United States’ most basic environmental regulations, including the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Clean Air Act, and poses many environmental threats to water and air.

In “Gasland,” Fox discovered tap water so contaminated it could be set on fire right out of the tap, chronically ill residents with similar symptoms in drilling areas across the country, and huge pools of toxic waste that kill livestock and vegetation. In GASLAND PART II, he revisits families whose lives have been upended from living near fracking wells and introduces new characters. Fox interviews politicians who have been trying to stop fracking and help the people affected by it, as well as experts who support Fox’s concerns about the dangers of fracking and the urgent need for a shift to truly clean renewable energy.

Fox returns to Dimock, Pa., Pavilion, Wyo., and Dish, Tex. to see how the residents are faring in their fight to secure clean water from local governments and the E.P.A., and ventures to Australia to see what is happening outside the

U.S. as fracking becomes a global practice.

In order to understand the potential dangers of fracking, Fox interviews Tony Ingraffea, Professor of Engineering, Cornell University, a former researcher for the gas industry. Ingraffea, who was named one of *Time* magazine's People Who Matter in 2011, explains why in his opinion, fracking can never be done safely. He illustrates how cement in wells can be vulnerable to cracking and that once it has cracked, methane gas can migrate into any underground source of drinking water.

In GASLAND PART II, Fox also argues that new choices must be made about where the nation gets its energy. He talks to Stanford professor Mark Jacobson, who argues that the U.S. could stop drilling for coal, oil and natural gas altogether and bundle together the renewable resources of wind, high-concentrated solar power, geothermal power, hydroelectric power and tidal power to handle the country's current energy needs.

But Fox's biggest concern in GASLAND PART II is perhaps his belief that "the enormously powerful oil and gas industry has not only contaminated our water, air and land, but also our democracy."

Towards the film's conclusion, Fox is arrested trying to film a congressional hearing regarding the E.P.A. results in Pavilion. But as the fight to protect the earth from extreme energy development seems even more challenging, Fox remains determined and undeterred.

For more information on the documentary, visit: Facebook: facebook.com/hbodocs; and Twitter: [@HBODocs](https://twitter.com/HBODocs) #GaslandII.

GASLAND PART II is directed and produced by Josh Fox; produced by Trish Adlesic; produced by Deborah Wallace; co-producer, Matthew Sanchez; cinematography, Josh Fox and Matthew Sanchez; editor, Matthew Sanchez. For HBO: senior producer, Nancy Abraham; executive producer, Sheila Nevins.

Roy Seneca
EPA Region 3 Press Officer
Office of Public Affairs
seneca.roy@epa.gov
(215) 814-5567